

Proper Verses for Vespers: Adoration of the Cross

Lord, I call:

Tone 5:

1. Shine, O Cross of the Lord,
shine with the light of thy grace
upon the hearts of those that honour thee.
With love inspired by God, we embrace thee,
O desire of all the world.
Through thee our tears of sorrow have been wiped away;
we have been delivered from the snares of death
and have passed over to unending joy.
Show us the glory of thy beauty
and grant to us thy servants the reward of our abstinence,
for we entreat with faith
thy rich protection and great mercy.

2. Hail! Life-giving Cross,
the fair Paradise of the Church,
Tree of incorruption
that brings us the enjoyment of eternal glory:
through thee the hosts of demons have been driven back;
and the hierarchies of angels rejoice with one accord,
as the congregations of the faithful keep the feast.
Thou art an invincible weapon,
an unbroken stronghold;
thou art the victory of kings and the glory of priests.
Grant us now to draw near to the Passion of Christ
and to His Resurrection.

3. Hail! Life-giving Cross,
unconquerable trophy of the true faith,
door to Paradise,
succour of the faithful,
rampart set about the Church.
Through thee the curse is utterly destroyed,
the power of death is swallowed up,
and we are raised from earth to heaven:
invincible weapon,
adversary of demons,
glory of martyrs,
true ornament of holy monks,
haven of salvation
bestowing on the world great mercy.

4. Come, Adam and Eve,
our first father and mother,
who fell from the choir on high
through the envy of the murderer of man,
when of old with bitter pleasure
ye tasted from the tree in Paradise.
See, the Tree of the Cross, revered by all, draws near!
Run with haste and embrace it joyfully,
and cry to it with faith:
O precious Cross, thou art our succour;
partaking of thy fruit, we have gained incorruption;
we are restored once more to Eden,
and we have received great mercy.

Glory be to the Father...

Tone 3:

O Christ our God,
of Thine own will Thou hast accepted Crucifixion,
that all mankind might be restored to life.
Taking the quill of the Cross, out of love for man
in the red ink of royalty
with bloody fingers Thou hast signed our absolution.
We are in danger once again of being parted from Thee;
O forsake us not!
Take pity on Thy people in distress,
for Thou alone art longsuffering.
Rise up and fight against our enemies
in Thine almighty power.

Apostikha Theotokion Tone 4:

O Lord who hast helped gentle David in the combat
and enabled him to overcome the Philistine,
come to the aid of Thine Orthodox people
and by the Weapon of the Cross
cast down our enemies.
In Thy compassion
show us Thy mercy as of old,
and make them know in truth that Thou art God,
and that we who put our trust in Thee shall conquer.
At the constant intercessions of Thy most pure Mother,
grant us Thy great mercy.